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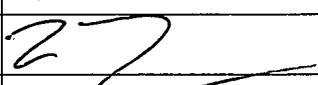
(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

		Application Number	10/656,797
		Filing Date	September 4, 2003
		First Named Inventor	Niel F. STARKSEN
		Art Unit	3734
		Examiner Name	M. Andersen
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	19	Attorney Docket Number	578492001500

### ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)

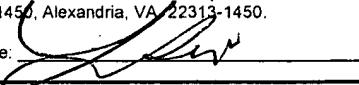
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply (18 pages) <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Table on CD	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to TC <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): Return Receipt Postcard
Remarks		

### SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm Name	MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP (Customer No. 25226)		
Signature			
Printed name	Mika Mayer		
Date	November 21, 2006	Reg. No.	47,777

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV 534438885 US, on the date shown below in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

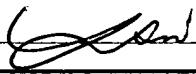
Dated: November 21, 2006

Signature:  (Lori Sims)

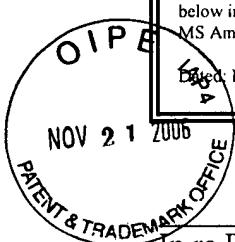
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Signature:  (Lori Sims)

Docket No.: 578492001500  
(PATENT)



## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Niel F. STARKSEN

Application No.: 10/656,797

Confirmation No.: 7101

Filed: September 4, 2003

Art Unit: 3734

For: DEVICES AND METHODS FOR CARDIAC  
ANNULUS STABILIZATION AND  
TREATMENT

Examiner: M. Andersen

### **AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

### **INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

This is in response to the non-final Office Action dated August 22, 2006, for which a response is due on November 22, 2006. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the remarks presented herein is respectfully requested. Amendments to the specification begin on page 2. Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 6 of this paper. The Remarks begin on page 15.